



525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)

December 4, 2019

**Via E-Mail**

Adam Andersen  
[83772-06647213@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:83772-06647213@requests.muckrock.com)

**Re: Freedom of Information Request No.: DPH 0964 FOIA**

Dear Mr. Andersen,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information request for the data on cancer-related surgeries performed on adult patients at individual hospitals in Illinois from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

The Department is denying your request pursuant to Section 7(1)(a) of FOIA. Section 7(1)(a) exempts from disclosure “information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations adopted under federal or State law.” Specifically, Section 840.30(h) of the Health and Hazardous Substance Registry Code, 77 Ill. Admin Code. 840, requires that “[t]he identity, or any group of facts that tends to lead to the identity, of any facility or of any person whose condition or treatment is submitted to the Illinois Health and Hazardous Substances Registry is confidential and shall not be open to public inspection or dissemination and is exempt from disclosure under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Act.” The information you are requesting is facility specific and considered confidential under the Illinois Health and Hazardous Substance Registry Code.

While the Department cannot legally provide you this data pursuant to its FOIA process, please be advised that some form of the data you are requesting may be available to you by contacting the Division of Patient Safety and Quality and following the Department’s process for obtaining discharge data elements. More information on this process may be located at the following website: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation/patient-safety-quality/discharge-Data>. You may also contact our Division Chief for Patient Safety and Quality at (312) 814-5278, for further information on how it may be possible to obtain discharge data outside of the FOIA process. The request form may be found here: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/formsoppsdischarge-data-request-form.pdf>.

You may request a review of this denial by contacting the Office of the Public Access Counselor at:

Public Access Counselor  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General  
500 S. Second St.  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Fax: 217-782-1396  
Email: [publicaccess@atg.state.il.us](mailto:publicaccess@atg.state.il.us)

You also have the right to file for injunctive or declaratory relief in the circuit court for Sangamon County or the county where you live (5 ILCS 140/11)

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial notice (5 ILCS 140/9.4(a)). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial notice when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

If I can be of further assistance you can contact me at (217) 558-3403 or via email at [DPH.FOIA@Illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.FOIA@Illinois.gov), or write to me at 535 West Jefferson St., Springfield, IL 62761-0001.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Reynolds*

Lisa Reynolds  
Acting Freedom of Information Officer